

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 9420

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH RO AL

SUBJ: VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN LEADS PRC DELEGATION TO
ROMANIA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUMMARY: PRC VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S LEADERSHIP OF A
PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO ROMANIA'S 30TH NATIONAL
DAY CELEBRATION IS INDICATIVE OF PEKING'S INTEREST IN CULTI-
VATING TIES WITH BUCHAREST AT A TIME WHEN SINO-ALBANIAN RE-
LATIONS HAVE COOLED. END SUMMARY

1. ON AUGUST 21, NCNA ANNOUNCED THAT A CHINESE PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN
DEPARTED THE DAY FOR BUCHAREST TO ATTEND CELEBRATIONS MARKING
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIAN LIBERATION DAY. (THIS IS
LI'S FIRST VISIT ABROAD SINCE 1971 WHEN HE HEADED AN ECONOMIC
DELEGATION TO NORTH VIETNAM. THAT YEAR HE ALSO LED
A PARTY-GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO NORTH KOREA'S NATIONAL
DAY CELEBRATION.)

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2. THE CHINESE DELEGATION--- WHOSE DEPUTY HEAD IS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AND HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL LIAISON DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY KENG PIAO-- IS THE HIGHEST RANKING PARTY DELEGATION TO TRAVEL ABROAD SINCE LI TEH-SHENG AND NI CHIH-FU LED THE PRC PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DLEGATION O THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DPRK CELEBRATION LAST SEPTEMBER IN PYONGYANG. ON THE OCCASION OF ROMANIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1969, THE RESIDENT CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST WAS THE PRC GOVERNMENT'S RANKING REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CELEBRATIONS.

3. PEKING'S RECENT TREATMENT AND ATTENTION TO ROMANIA IS REMINISCENT OF PRC TREATMENT OF ALBANIA WHEN PEKING-TIRANA RELATIONS WERE MORE INTIMATE. CHINESE TREATMENT OF THE 1973 ALBANIAN NATIONAL DAY ACTIVITIES LAST NOVEMBER REFLECTED THE EXISTENCE OF CORDIAL AND FRATERNAL TIES, BUT THE THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL YEARS CHOU EN-LAI DID NOT ATTEND THE ALBANIAN RECEPTION IN PEKING. (LI HSIEN-NIEN LED THE CHINESE LEADER-SHIP TURN OUT AT THE 1973 ROMANIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION). ALTHOUGH THE RECENT VISITS OF THE ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU AND CHIEF OF STAFF GORGHE ION APPARENTLY PRODUCED LITTLE OF IMPORTANCE (PEKING 1399), THERE HAS BEEN A NOTABLE INCREASE IN PRC MEDIA FOCUS ON ROMANIA AND ROMANIA -RELATED ACTIVITIES. WITH MOSCOW ENTERTAINING HOPES OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, PEKING PROBABLY IS UNDERTAKING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TIES WITH ROMANIA AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS AS A COUNTERMEASURE.

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